

Message Text

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22

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 L-03 USIA-15 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:ASTEFAN:EM

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:RBARRY

CU/EE:MJOYCE

EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON

L/EUR:JWILLIS

L/CU:JBUSHONG

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R 100213Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 300078

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, UR

SUBJECT: HERMITAGE LOAN OF ANTIQUE COLTS TO COLT
INDUSTRIES

1. COLT INDUSTRIES IS NEGOTIATING THE LOAN OF THREE ANTIQUE COLT REVOLVERS FROM THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM, TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE U.S. BY COLT. DEPARTMENT WAS CALLED BY MR. DECKER, OF COLT INDUSTRIES, WHO EXPECTS TO TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE REVOLVERS FROM THE HERMITAGE. A FIRM DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET FOR THIS TURNOVER.

2. DECKER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE COLTS ONCE ENTRUSTED TO HIM, AND INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF STORING THEM IN THE CONSULATE. DEPARTMENT INFORMED HIM CONSULATE PROHIBITED FROM ACCEPTING MATERIAL FOR STORAGE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES AND ADVISED HIM TO ARRANGE FOR TURN-OVER JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE TO AIRPORT SO THAT PROBLEM DOES NOT ARISE.

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3. DECKER ALSO INQUIRED CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF CONSULATE

OFFICIAL ACCOMPANYING HIM TO TURNOVER CEREMONY. HE FELT
CONSULATE PRESENCE WOULD LEND PRESTIGE TO THE OCCASION AND

ALSO ASSURE WITNESS IN THE EVENT OF LATER QUESTIONS.

4. WE LEAVE DECISION ON PARTICIPATION IN TURNOVER
"CEREMONY" TO YOUR DISCRETION. PLEASE PROVIDE ANY
COMMENTS WE MIGHT PASS TO DECKER, SPECIFICALLY YOUR
REACTION TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PROSPECTIVE ARMED
ENCOUNTER. ROBINSON

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